

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, October 7, 1913, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. October 7th, 1913. Mrs. A. G. Bell, % Mrs. Fairchild, "In the Woods" Chevy Chase Lake, Maryland. U. S.A. Dear Mabel:

You are just the sweetest darlingest little wifie I ever had — and I love you. Glad to know that you are "In the Woods" at last and hope you will send me some of the latest sayings of Graham and Barbara. Just received your note from New York. How did the children stand the journey? Hope you won't all have colds the moment you reach Washington — as usual.

How is poor Miss Schmidt. Tell her I miss those morning dictations — and can't get along at all without some one to take a dictation. Have been trying to write an at for the Breeder's Magazine — but cannot get on at all. My brains seem all muddled — and my eyes feel strained after my tussle with the sheep statistics. Have finished the ancestry of offspring of the present flock. Mr. Smallwood gave out under the strain and has gone off for a few days rest — so I am alone. Miss McKenzie has been helping me to get some letters off — and when we get through with these — I will try to dictate my article to her. I am really quite unable to write it myself. I feel so muddled over the whole thing that I think a few days rest won't hurt me.

The breeding season opened in earnest today with 2 the mating of the oldest and youngest in the flock. Old 1605 the great great grandmother of the flock accepted the attentions of a young ram only five months old — who weights 123 pounds !

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Charles and Angus and I have the house all to ourselves. The girls wanted a holiday so Charles packed them all off in a bunch to Sydney where I suppose they are having a good time.

Casey and Kathleen are just as good as gold. They made me dine with them yesterday — and this evening about nine o'clock they both walked up to the Point to see that I was all right. Kathleen seemed troubled at my determination to take advantage of your absence to starve — and wanted to know what I had had to eat. Well I can't starve when Charles is around. He provided me with a plump partridge and curds and whey and I could not resist the temptation.

John McDermid is determined that I shall walk and today absolutely refused to carry me further than Gertrude seat. Casey was with me and he turned us both out and made us walk to the Point.

I adopted your suggestions about Jack Frost's book. Miss McKenzie copied your proposed letter to the publishers and I signed it. Casey says that I may now expect to see the letter in big caps in the advertisements of the book — as an endorsement of its interest and value ! 3 I hear that Mr. Kennan is much perplexed as to what to say to the publishers as they have sent him a copy of the book with a request for his opinion. I judge, from what Kathleen says, that Mr. Kennan has the same sort of opinion of the book that I have! Perhaps he may not be as diplomatic as I have been, and may give his opinion of the book in one word — “ROT.”

Annealed some selenium today at the Museum as a preparation for some experiments. We are now all ready to take advantage of the first fine day. The weather since you left has been depressing. Warm and damp with overcast sky. The first snow storm has been reported from the Canadian northwest so I suppose we may expect cooler weather soon. Did you notice the remarkable storm they have had in Alaska. The town of Nome, standing on sand, has been almost swept away. 500 houses destroyed.

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Your loving husband, Alec. P. S. Sent you today the extra dividend on your kodak stock, amounting to \$1200.00. I now enclose interest on your Northern Pacific Great Northern C.B. & Q collateral 4% Bonds, amounting to \$230.00. (Liberty National Bank, No. 142866). AGB.